

The Canticle of St. Francis

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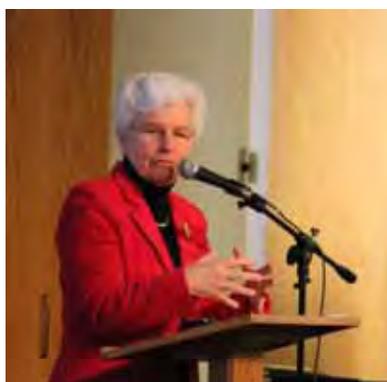


Parish Newsletter: Volume 18, Issue 1

Spring 2013

Common Conference 2013

Parishioners deepened their understanding of our faith, and comment . . .



Keynote speaker: Sister Janet Schaeffler author, speaker, faith formation leader.



19 January, 2013:

“Everything was just perfect!”

“I like the idea of a Common Conference to draw people together at a time other than Sunday Mass.”

“Well done. I had a great time. Excellent day of learning AND socializing with friends from the parish.”

“I loved this conference. It met many needs and was just the right length. I attended four different workshops but you made it pretty easy if I wanted to attend only one.”

“I was able to attend because it includes the children and teens.”

“This is great—a good variety of interesting topics, easy registration, simple but great food! Please keep doing these.”

“There was a fantastic mix of Scripture, prayer, music, personal growth—I loved them all.”



Special Children’s program for grades preK-5 used crafts, games, and hands-on projects to make the stories of faith “come alive”.



30 topic sessions for adults and teens, portable lunches, and The Coffee Guy to caffeinate us all.



“Well-informed and prepared speakers, great topics, keep doing this conference.”

“This conference is all very rich already---wonderful topics and speakers! It was an enjoyable day learning more about my faith and also meeting some other parishioners.”

“It ain’t broke---don’t even try to ‘fix’ it.”

Mark Your Calendar—Spring 2013



Saturdays thru April 13: **Tax Assistance Program-** (except March 30) 10:30AM to 12 noon / Parish Office. By appointment only—769-2550.

March 8-10: **High School Youth Retreat** /Jen 821-2126

March 10: **We Miss You – Catholics Return Home,** 12noon / Parish Office / Marty Lucas 821-2125

March 15: **Business Breakfast Forum** / 7:00 – 8:30 AM / PAC / Janene 821-2122.

March 15: **M.O.M.S. Group** / 1st & 3rd Fridays 10AM – 12 noon / Chapel / Bree 734-904-4331

March 15 (April 19, May 17): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** on 3rd Friday / 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / to volunteer, call Bridget 665-9549

March 18: **Divorced & Separated Group** / All Mondays 7:00– 8:30PM / school library / Jeff 213-2230.

March 18: **Meditation Group** / All Mondays 7:00 – 8PM / Chapel / Paul 734-646-5591.

March 18—25: **Rotating Shelter for Homeless Persons** / St Francis Gym / Scott Wright 821-2121.

March 22: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays 10AM – 12 noon/ Nursery / Carol 734-769-1659

March 22-23: **Young Adults** 20-30's single or married /to the **Michigan Catholic Young Adult Conference/** Lansing/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

March 23/24: **Return Lenten “Sustain A House”** sack contributions at Palm Sunday Mass / Scott 821-2121.

April 2: **Young Adult Faith Sharing & Book Group** 20-30's single or married /Tuesdays in April / 7PM / Jen 821-2126 jen@stfrancisa2.org

April 9: **SENIOR Citizens monthly program** / 10AM / for location call Scott Wright 821-2121

April 9: **Monthly Knitting Shawl Ministry/** 7:00pm / Church Library / Kathleen 734-717-0685

April 14: **Catholic Business Professionals' Connection** 9:00-11AM /school library / Tom 734-649-2655.

April 20: **Middle Singles (40-50's) Potluck Dinner** / 6:30 PM / PAC/ Jen 821-2126

April 27: **Home repair** with "Christmas In Action" home repair for low income needy elderly / Scott 821-2121.

April-May: **ALPHA is coming!** Adults, learn more about your faith. Marty 821-2125.

May 16: St Francis School's Mary Lou Daby **Spring Arts Festival** / 5:30-8PM school / 821-2200

May: *Registration begins-Vacation Bible School 2013* **July 22 - 26** at www.stfrancisa2.org click *Religious Education* / call Ellen Ward 821-2130

May 27-June 2: **Hosting at Shelter for Homeless Families,** IHN - Alpha House in Ann Arbor / shift times / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

May 30: **St. Francis School 8th Grade Graduation Mass** /6 PM in church. 734.821.2200

May 31: **Ice Cream Social** /5:30PM, **Mega Mustang Car Raffle Drawing** at 8PM/ Colleen Pierce / 734.821.2208.



June 12, 13, 14: **Altar Society RUMMAGE SALE** / opens 9:30 AM/ Gym/ 734-769-2550. **Drop-Off donations** on June 8-10.

Lent Communal Penance Services

Family: Monday, March 18 at 5:00 p.m. in church

All Parish: Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. in church

TRIDUUM / EASTER 2013 MASSES

Holy Thursday, March 28: 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Good Friday, March 29: 12 noon Stations of the Cross enacted by HS Youth
 1:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Evening Prayer
 Holy Saturday, March 30: 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil & Mass (no 5PM Mass today)
 Easter Sunday, March 31: Easter Mass 7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 10:45 a.m. (in PAC-Parish Activity Center).



NOTE: There will be no 5PM mass on Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday

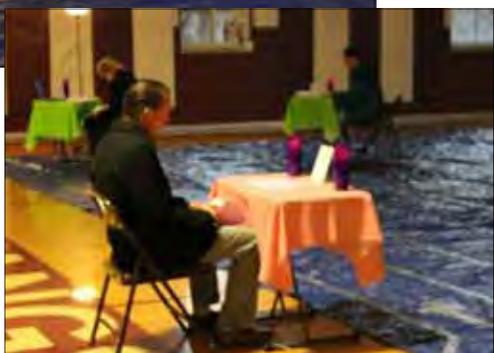


Advent Prayer Experiences

Advent Labyrinth



This Advent our **high school youth ministry** hosted a special event for the parish. After spending considerable time creating and assembling, the teens were proud and excited to offer their favorite retreat activity to the parish—a prayer labyrinth. This is an interactive prayer experience that combines the ancient concept of a labyrinth and more modern aspects such as laptops and sandboxes!



By making a virtual pilgrimage through the stations, participants were challenged to see what things were impeding their relationship with God, their perspectives on God, and how to move forward in their faith journey after completing the labyrinth.

With participants ranging in age from middle school through senior citizens, it was a wonderful event for all ages. The teens are looking forward to offering it again this Lent.

Taizé Advent Prayer Service



Advent Taizé prayer services were held on two December evenings this year. Brother Roger, the founder of Taizé, said, *“Since my youth, I think that I have never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone.”* Where they are gathered there is love, and God is love. God speaks to us in the silence. Amidst the cold dark night, the inside of the church glowed with candlelight and the warmth of parishioners coming together as a community in song, silence, and prayer.



Musicians (*left*) came together to rehearse for a few weeks preceding the services and many members of our community came to worship and pray. Taizé services will continue during this Lenten season, on Monday evenings, March 4, 11, 18 at 8:00 PM in church.

SERVICE + JUSTICE (734) 821-2121

THANK YOU to St. Francis Parish!

Christmas Party for Perry Nursery

Thank you for the 2012 Christmas Dinner Party!

Our Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School at St. Francis on December 6th was a wonderful success and a fun time for all again this year. With almost 200 guests we still ended up with plenty of food. Thanks to all of you for the (33) casseroles, (23) salads, (11) vegetables, and (18) desserts.



Know that your good food is appreciated. After the party we donated the left-overs to "[Friends of the Master House](#)" (located in Ypsilanti) which provides a safe, sober, and spiritual residential atmosphere for men who are released from jail or prison.



We thank especially all of you who prepared and donated the food. And, we thank, our party coordinators: Mary Hayden (food & kitchen); Doris Filisko (decorations); Chris Kempton (activities);



Julie Holmes Martyka (emcee), Jason Zurawski (raffle); Linda & Jim Wiseman (Santa's print-photographers) and of course Santa. And, we thank everybody, more than 100 people, who helped (especially, if we forgot to list your name here)... Jane Antosiak, Dcn. Rich Badics, Terese Bertcher, Chris Black,

Abby & Ann Bogits, Elaine Brandenburg, Sue Bright, Nadine Brown, Anne Bruienne, Elaine Caoili, Kathy Ciesinski, Nora Clark, Brianna Clementz, Diana and Paul Crossley, Jeanette Cousino, Donna Davis, Katie DeBona, Kathi deGeus, Dick & Barb Dehn, Ray Digby, Karen Digby, Patti Dobbs, Jean DuRussel-Weston, Cathy Ebbert, Kathleen Engel, Chris Feak, Julianna Feeney, Barbara Kelly-Ferris, Doris Filisko, Mary Fister, Michael Gatti, Colette Hamel, Janet Hathaway, Mary Hayden, Crystal Heft, Jane Heibel, Debra Hermann, Jake & Julia Hermann, Deb Hoffman, Kyle, Dave & Julie Martyka Holmes, Emma Hudson, Kathleen Kaveh, Jean Kelsey, Chris Kempton, Freddi Kilburn, Judy Kovac, Florence Kruzas, Bill LaCroix, Julie Leonard, Connor Lignell, John Malbone, Rosemary & Ana Markel, Bernice Mathews, MaryKaren McClellan, Lauren McGillicuddy, Bob & Joan Meagher, Maria Merola, Cathy Miling, John and Cicie Miller, Jane Miller, Chris Mollo, Ann Moln, Felice Moorman, Andrew Nash, Norma Orona, Cathy Pietrasiuk, Barbara Pomey, Diane Purcell, Kathleen Pustell, Jack Reid, Janet Reid, Amy Remillard, Matthew Remillard, Elaine Ross, Lisa Savacchio, Annie Scott, Patrick Sherry, John Sherry, Rose Sherry, Peggy Soto, Sharon-Jean Sprague, Clare Stando, Janet Starr, Makayla Soto, Janet Bachman Suomala, Kelly and Katy Szafranski, Angela Szewczul, Kaela Van Til, Carmen Tsai, Catherine Wagoner, Mary Wakefield, Ed and Jennifer Walsh & family, Marybeth Worcheck, Sharon Wright, Linda & Jim Wiseman, Jason Zurawski, Rita Zyber & Mary Zynda. *Thank you!!!*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2013 Mass, Choirs & Dinner



On Sunday, January 20th, our St. Francis community again honored Dr. King at weekend masses to recognize his efforts to *use the tools of non-violence to bring peace and justice to all people*. His positions reflect much of our own Catholic Social Teaching. The 5 PM Sunday mass featured our talented Contemporary Choir, under the leadership of Carol Fedewa, joined by members of the Detroit Corpus Christi Parish Choir (our sister parish), under the leadership of Michelle Baines. The combined choirs bring a vitality and energy in honoring Dr. King.

After a joyous, song-filled service, all were invited to a lasagna dinner catered by John Miller. In the interest of being more sustainable, we fed almost 80 guests using "real" dishes and utensils. And thanks to the volunteers who lended a hand to help with the dishes -- "many hands make light work"! We are proud to have avoided using and throwing away all those disposable plates, cups, and utensils!

Thanks to all who work to bring justice & peace into our community! Thanks to all who participated and served at this event. We especially thank Michelle Baines, Carol Fedewa, and Choirs. We thank all who helped: Catherine Anderson, Dick Brown, Mary Callow, Kathy Casalino-Ghisleni, Ann Damon, Kathi deGeus, Karen Digby, Kathleen Engel, Bethany Eurick, Mary Fister, Crystal Heft, Laura Huck, Kristy Huige, Mary Lou Kellermann, Florence Kruzas, Bill LaCroix, Steve Kellermann, Florence Kruzas, Bill LaCroix, Steve Lavender, Marissa Lipcaman, Maria Merola, Cecie & John Miller, Chris Mollo, Kelly Gauthier & Andrew & Donley Nash, Diane Purcell, Reynaldo Ronquillo, Tori Schumacher, Paul Schwankl, Clare & John Paul Stando, Tricia Suttman, Chris Turner, Sharon Walker, Jean Welsh, Jim & Linda Wiseman, Carol, Jack & Will Wisner, Scott Wright, Ed & Sharon Wright, Patti and Charles Yonka, Caroline Zubieta, and Rita Zyber.

Service & Support for those in need

Stewardship of Shelter

St. Francis Parish Efforts

Stable shelter continues to be recognized as the most urgent need of every homeless household. This ongoing Christian Service effort is seen in St. Francis Parish involvement with Habitat for Humanity, the Rotating Shelter and support for affordable housing in Washtenaw County. At times it seems the growth in affordable housing slows down. Through **RAAH (Religious Action for Affordable Housing)**, St. Francis has been an ongoing advocate for this Faith-Based Initiative. It is still an Initiative as affordable housing is still a challenge. RAAH has been working toward this ends for over 12 years, and St. Francis has been involved from early on. St. Francis has been represented both as a Parish for funding, advocating, as well as, several individuals from St. Francis are serving on the RAAH Board.

RAAH's continued efforts on affordable housing has led to its fifth campaign. This campaign includes support for the support services and housing through:

- **Washtenaw Prisoner Reentry;**
- **Michigan Ability Partners (MAP)** for veterans and disabled persons with a history of homelessness;
- **Frequent ER users- through Avalon Housing** and Catholic Social Services.

By channeling the donations from Washtenaw County congregations and individuals in the course of the next year RAAH will be providing a significant portion of the local funding that these projects need in order to obtain matching funds from national agencies. Please NOTE: Ann Arbor was one of 4 winners in the USA FOR THIS FEDERAL GRANT!

St. Francis continues to be an active voice for Affordable Housing. RAAH is an ALL volunteer effort, Consider joining. Be part of this opportunity. The role of St. Francis in the 21st Century is to Advocate, Educate and raise funds for Affordable Housing. Contributions may be made through *St. Francis of Assisi Parish* by writing "RAAH" in the memo line of your check. For more information contact parishioner & RAAH rep., Mary Wakefield at mwakefield140796mi@comcast.net or 734.973.6113.

The Giving Tree Gifts 2012

Thanks to all of you shoppers and gift wrappers, and special thanks to our project coordinators Karen Shellie & Susan Wawrzaszek, our Middle School Students, Ellen Ward and, especially our Senior Citizens group for making the Giving Tree Tags, Norma Doyle, Doris Filisko, Mary Fister, MaryLou Kellermann, Florence Kruzas, Jean Welch, Stella Wiktorski, & Sharon Wright.



We thank those who decorated the trees, and most especially those who moved the gifts from the church to storage after all the Masses: Jane Antosiak, Monika Barera, Brianna Clementz, Joseph Clementz, Carl Fulper family, Laurie Galia, Bertie Gatti & Michael Gatti, Vickie Hepler, Isabella & Eric Lee, Maria Merola, Bruce & Ann Moln, Chris Mollo, Mike Nazareth & family, Carol Paradis, Diane Peters, Deisy Santos, Ed & Ann Scott, Alina & Daniel & James & Linda Wiseman, & Susan Wawrzaszek.. And, we thank: Amy Stoy, Julie Fantone & the School Teachers and Classes for collecting a large number of additional gifts for the participating organizations of our Giving Tree Program.

More than 1000 Individual Gifts were distributed to individuals in need through the following organizations:

- 38 gifts for Home of New Vision -Recovery;
- 60 gifts for Ozone House;
- 47 gifts for St. Louis Center, Chelsea;
- 150 gifts for Catholic Social Services
- 22 gifts for Angel Tree, Lansing
- 96 gifts for Perry Nursery School;
- 30 gifts for ArborVitae Women's Center;
- 27 gifts for Project Transition;
- 193 gifts for Hope Clinic, Inc.;
- 101 gifts for HIV/AIDs Resource Center (H.A.R.C.);
- 134 gifts for Community Action Network, Green Baxter and Hikone
- 30 gifts for SOS Homeless Children's Services;
- 120 gifts for CSTS, Community Support and Treatment Center;
- 30 gifts for Veterans at Ann Arbor VA Hospital.

Christmas 2012 ReGift Box Report

Our parish Christmas ReGift Project was a success again this year. We want to thank the many donors who helped make this project a success. We collected 460 items that were delivered to Perry Nursery School, St. Louis Center in Chelsea, and PORT: Project Outreach Team Homeless of Washtenaw County. We were especially grateful for the clothing and housewares for PORT and wish to thank all of the children who gave their new toys, games and dolls for those at Perry Nursery and St. Louis.



We give special thanks to Frederica Kilburn and Mary Hayden who served as our project coordinators. God bless each of you who donated, *The Parish St. Vincent de Paul Committee*

Adults learning & planning

Vatican Council II: A Half Century Later



The fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council is a good time to reflect on the momentous changes that took place at that time. The Council was convoked by

Pope John XXIII for the renewal of the Catholic Church and Christian reunion. The Pope expressed the hope that it would be the beginning of a new Pentecost for the Church.

Adults of St. Francis had an opportunity to study the cultural milieu that prompted the council, several key documents, and to engage in discussion on what the council has meant up to this point and what it holds for the future. They prayed the prayer that the council prayed, and talked a bit about Blessed John XXIII, and Pope Paul VI. Cathy Guinan, recently retired DRE from St. Mary Chelsea, taught the class.

The Canticle of The Sun

In 1225, in a small hut near the monastery of San Damiano, Italy, Brother Francis of Assisi lay in pain. One of his ailments was sensitivity to light – sunlight, firelight, and even full moonlight. Instead of complaining, Francis wrote a song of praise to God as creator of the sun, fire, and moon. As a young man, he had read Augustine's ideas that things in nature were gifts from God to be appreciated and cherished. Francis believed all these things, living or inanimate, reflected the Creator's love, and so deserved honor and awe.



Only a person attuned to the natural world could have written "The Canticle of the Sun," singing of his brothers Sun, Wind, and Fire, and his sisters Moon, Water, and Mother Earth. Shortly before Francis died, he added a stanza to the canticle about his Sister

Death, from whom, he said, no living person escapes. His last words were "Welcome Sister Death."

St. Francis Parish Sustainability Project Team



Nearly 20 of our team members had a productive planning day in January. The action plans we began to formulate during that meeting will be our work during the Easter season and well beyond. Some of our ideas included: highlighting Saint Francis of Assisi, the person, our patron saint, and a role model, who



promoted the care for all of God's creation long before we ever heard the word "sustainability". We will encourage science fair projects and contests for kids to think of the best sustainability ideas, art & service.

The goal of all these actions is to help us all change our cultural direction into 'greening' our parish, homes & lifestyles. We hope to "reduce, reuse & recycle" more. Areas of interest include: energy use in buildings & transportation; food, land & water use; purchasing & recycling. Our Sustainable Garden Project coordinator, Erich Jensen and helpers, are especially excited to help with these plans.

We are interested in contributing to the long term health of the Great Lakes region. We want to promote the *use of nutritional local food* at St. Francis Parish.



Save energy by *shutting off cars while waiting*, instead of idling. We would like to have a day to *encourage all to bike or walk to church*. We want to begin an evaluation of St. Francis Parish and School energy use to see *if solar energy might be useful here*.

Join your fellow parishioners as we build a Sustainability Project here at St. Francis. Contact Scott Wright (734-821-2121). Learn more at:

www.stfrancisa2.com/sustainability

St. Francis Celebrates!



Living Nativity 2012

(Above) Donkeys, sheep, goats, and camels (aka llamas) tell of the glory of the story of the Nativity by their presence. Children dressed as angels, shepherds, townsfolk, and members of the King's caravan re-lived the wonder of the incarnation in the Living Nativity last December. John, May, and baby Joshua Butsic (right) played the role of the Holy Family. Thank you to all those who participated in the Nativity whether by kind word, happy attendance, or good deed.

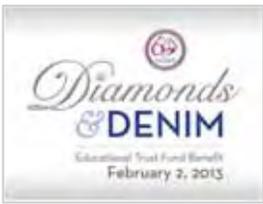
Looking ahead: Mark your calendar for **Vacation Bible School** scheduled for Monday through Friday, **July 22-26** from 9 a.m.-12 noon! Our theme is Athens and during this year of Faith, we'll experience ancient Greece and explore with Saint Paul the beginnings of the church. For children aged preK-5 with middle school, high school, and adult volunteers. Go to <http://www.stfrancisa2.com/religious-education/vacation-bible-school> for more information.

Questions about Religious Education? Contact the RE office at stfreled@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2130.

A Fond Parish Christmas Tradition

(Right): Fr. Jim talks to the children during his homily at the Christmas Eve Mass last December 2012.





Diamonds & Denim – A Dazzling Affair!



The 12th annual St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Educational Trust Fund (ETF) Benefit took place on Saturday, February 2nd at the Sheraton Ann Arbor Hotel. This year, approximately 250 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening at the ETF Benefit as they celebrated 60 years of Catholic education at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School! The Benefit, which was skillfully chaired by (photo right) Stacey and Jeffrey Higgins and LeeAnn and Patrick McKeon, included a delicious strolling dinner, an open bar, a raffle and other fun games, and a silent and live auction. The Benefit was aptly themed “*Diamonds and Denim*” - a theme that was enjoyed by all participants.

The annual ETF Benefit has enabled the Trust Fund to grow to its present value of over \$1,400,000. Through the tremendous efforts and generosity of past and present school families, parishioners, business leaders and community members, a movement to help secure the financial future of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School has endured.

The ETF Benefit raised a great deal of revenue this year for the ETF, with projected net proceeds totaling nearly \$70,000. The live auction brought in over \$34,000, with the following winning bids: **University of Michigan Season Football Tickets** - \$1,900; **BBQ Group Dinner** - \$1,000; **Gourmet Dinner for Six** - \$1,400; **Georgetown Country Club Annual Membership** - \$1,700; **New York City Weekend Down on Broadway** - \$1,000; **Harbor Springs Cottage Getaway (x2)** - \$7,500 each; **Braces by Edwards and Schaefer Orthodontics** - \$1,250; **A Diamond Worth Keeping** - \$850; **Sleepover at St. Francis School for One Grade** - \$3,200; **A Special Italian Dinner for Eight** - \$1,000; **Dessange Day Spa for Six (x2)** - \$2,300 each; **Michigan Football Game Day Experience** - \$1,600. Additionally, the *Tuition Assistance Appeal* held during the event raised \$18,145 for this extremely worthwhile cause.



Overall, this event could not have been such a great success without the efforts of the St. Francis community. Whether your support of the ETF consisted of attending the Benefit, a monetary donation to the Trust Fund or through sponsorship of the Benefit, volunteering your time to help make the Benefit a success, donating a One-of-a-Kind Treasure or assisting with classroom projects, or through prayer, your support is greatly appreciated! Our school is blessed by such a wonderful, caring community! Thanks to your efforts and contributions, the current and future students of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School will continue to enjoy an enriching, faith-based Catholic education. Please visit the ETF Benefit web site at www.stfrancisa2.com/etf/ and click on the **ETF Benefit 2013 Photo Gallery** link to view more pictures from the event.



It should be particularly noted that many generous individuals and businesses stepped forward to contribute to the success of the Benefit with a sponsorship gift. Thanks are owed to:

Bronze Sponsor (\$1,500)

Jeff Crause & Ed McClellan at
Edward Jones
Pietrasiuk Family Foundation

Archangel Sponsor (\$1,000)

Ms. Green Construction
Greg & Andi Lobdell

Angel Sponsors (\$500)

Anonymous
Active One Construction Company
Alliance Catholic Credit Union
Bank of Ann Arbor
Drs. Justin & Anastasia Dimick
Krull Construction Company
Print-Tech, Inc.
Philip Walby
Pat Walters & Sons Heating
and Air Conditioning

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Celebrates

2013 Catholic Schools Week

St. Francis of Assisi School kicked off the 2013 Catholic School's Week with a snow day! The kids were all very excited but we had to consolidate our celebration into just a few days. Tuesday was filled with our students receiving CSW bracelets. **Raising the Standards**, as the theme encapsulated the amazing things happening at St. Francis. We continued the excitement on Thursday with our pep assembly. Six of our 6-8th grade students competed against our elementary teachers in a 6 v. 6 volleyball game. The students won even though it was a close game.

As we celebrated **Raising the Standards**, our 5-8th grade students had Dietetic Interns from University of Michigan come and talk about how we can better care for our bodies. They learned a lot about living a healthy life in God's presence. Wednesday was a *Spiritwear Day* and Thursday was *Not Your Standard Uniform Day*, where many of our students gave their own twist on our uniforms.

To wrap up the week, Fr. Jim gave a beautiful mass teaching our students about the Liturgy of the Word. We are so excited to hear about the Liturgy of the Eucharist in our next teaching mass. Following mass, our students paired up with other grades to create rosaries. It was a wonderful week filled with joy and celebration of our high standards of Catholic Education at St. Francis of Assisi School.



Educational Trust Fund Leadership Circle

In addition to the success of the Educational Trust Fund Benefit, the Leadership Circle expanded its membership even more in 2013! The ETF Leadership Circle is comprised of generous individuals who commit a minimum of \$1,000 annually to the Trust Fund for 5 consecutive years. To date, 45 families have committed gifts through the year 2017. Thank you to these members for your generosity!

New Membership 2013– to date

Jeff Bocan and Janet Hathaway
 Peter and Jane DeChants
 Daniel and Daisy Demlow
 Mike and Diane Leoni
 Christopher and Karen Ongena
 Frank and Kim La Marca
 Deb and Joe Purcell
 John-Paul and Clare Stando
 Kathie and Dave Sullivan
 Pitney Bowes Company
(matching gift)

Membership 2012

James and Ann Marie Borders, Timothy and Jamie Cahill, John and Denise Carethers, Doris Filisko, Tom and Gigi Jetton, Florence Kruzas, John and Bridget McGillicuddy, David and Kathy Swastek,

Membership 2011

William and Mary Claire Anhut, Herbert and Christine Black, Christopher and Traci Coffman, David and Charlotte Decker, Bill and Ehren Dirksen, Jim and Lisa Edwards, Mark and Karen Falahee, Marc and Julianna Feeney, Ted Fosdick, Robert and Angela Geppner, William and Angela Giannobile, Glenn and Amy Gottfried, Steve and Debra Hermann, William and Susan Hermann, Jeff and Stacey Higgins, Richard and Elizabeth Jarzembowski, Steve and Julie Lavender, Mike and Stacy Marsh, Steve and Lisa Morris, Tim and Shann Patton, Greg and Laurie Ruselowski, Michael and Kimm Sarosi, George and Judi Schwartz, Manak and Lucienne (Lucy) Sood, Mark and Jane Vogel, Thomas and Mary Wakefield, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company (matching gift)

The generosity of these individuals and their commitment to Catholic education beautifully reflects the words of St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel always and when necessary use words." Fr. Jim, Ms. Fantone and the ETF Trustees extend heartfelt thanks to these families for responding to a "call to leadership."

Seniors (55 & faster)

2012 November: Thanksgiving Dinner & Veterans BAND Our traditional meal (all served on real china, plates & cups, with real silverware certainly reduced the amount of disposables we produced) was delicious. The Veterans Day entertainment, by the Saline New Horizons "Patriotic" Band and dancing was enjoyed by all.



2013 January: After enjoying lunch at the Café DIA and about an hour touring other parts of the museum, we visited the **Detroit Institute of Art** exhibition of **Fabergé: The Rise & Fall**, to discover the story behind the renowned House of Fabergé and its privileged relationship with the Russian aristocracy.



2013 February: Our Karneval, a German-style Mardi Gras Carnival

with German lunch and entertainment by the Saline New Horizons German Band, was an amazing celebration, complete with homemade-pretzels thanks to our Master baker, Bob Borowski.



Parish Finance Council completes review of Parish Finances

In 2010, our Parish Finance Council established a *Fiscal Policy Subcommittee* to review the Parish's policies and procedures for handling cash and other incoming and outgoing funds. The *Subcommittee*, under the direction of Kristen Stumpo, spent several months researching Parish activities in the context of policies and procedures established by the Diocese of Lansing, as well as best practices in the world of not-for-profits and religious organizations.

The *Subcommittee* completed its report in early 2012, and submitted it to the Parish Business Manager for review and comment, and then to the Finance Council as a whole. The Finance Council was pleased to see that many of the *Subcommittee's* recommendations were already being followed, including the separation of check signing (Pastor) and reconciliation of the Bank statement (Business Manager), the establishment of fixed limits on Parish credit cards and the review of monthly reports of card activity by both the Pastor and Business Manager, and compliance with tax and reporting requirements of governmental authorities.

In response to other of the Subcommittee's recommendations, the Parish has begun consolidating various small special

purpose accounts such as for Leadership, Heartbeats, and the School Milk Program into the main Parish account. The Business Manager now reviews bank statements on each remaining special purpose account, and prepares a summary financial statement semi-annually of each for review by the Pastor. The Parish is working with its bank toward implementation of a positive pay arrangement in order to reduce the possibility of check fraud, and implementing increased oversight of the PTG Scrip account.

In summary, while noting that its review of Parish activities should not be construed as an audit, the Finance Council believes that the Parish is compliant with Diocesan financial policies and procedures, its operations are consistent with best practices of non-profit and religious organizations, and that its financial statements are accurate and can be relied upon.

Keith Trost, Past Chair
Parish Finance Council 2011-2012



Middle Singles 40-50's Adults



[Above:] Middle Singles caroling at nursing home

The Middle Singles Group has enjoyed a wide variety of activities. This group of active single adults in their 40s and 50s has ventured forth to weekly trivia where they have been known to win the tournament! Additionally they have headed out to the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Festival, caroling, and more. All those who are single, whether divorced, never married, widows or widowers are welcome to join us. A full schedule of up-coming activities can be found on the web site or in the weekly bulletin.

New Pastor Named For St. Francis

As I announced in January, I will retire in August. Bishop Boyea has informed me and I am pleased to announce that **Fr. James Conlon** (*photo*) will become pastor of St. Francis as of Monday, August 12th. In the meantime, I will do all that I can to bring about a smooth transition.



Fr. Conlon comes originally from Ireland and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lansing in 2002. You may remember him, as his first assignment was here at St. Francis as parochial vicar from 2002 – 2004. He then served as Director of Bethany House at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt from 2004-2009, and as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Westphalia, from 2009 until the present.

Please help me welcome him back to St. Francis.

Fr. Jim McDougall, Pastor

Parish Rummage Sale

One of our Rummage Sale volunteers recently shared the story of joining the Parish in 1965 and recalling that the Rummage Sale was held even at that time. That makes this Parish Community Service Project almost 50 years young!

We can only guess at the statistics that would be included over the long history of such a major event, including Volunteer Hours, items donated and sold and then donated back again, as well as revenue created for funding the Altar Society work throughout the Parish.

For many years the Rummage Sale occurred twice a year, spring and fall. Currently, it is held in June in the School Gymnasium, as summer vacation begins. The generously donated goods continue to overwhelm the space provided and it is common to see bicycles, furniture, gardening tools, toys and more lined up outside the Gym entrance.

The Rummage Sale provides a glimpse of how our society has changed. We've run the gamut of donated



vinyl records, 8-track tapes, cassettes, VHS, CDs and DVDs as well as Corning Ware and Pyrex through Tupperware and Rubbermaid. Today electronic devices update so rapidly that our Electronics Tables house a museum-like display with a history of advancements designed in a very short time.

Along with the vast history of this Community Service Project comes an overwhelming sense of a job well done, each year, while creating, nurturing and recalling friendships made through the grace of God.

We thank you for your support over the years while we welcome you for new or continued participation during *set up* (June 8-11) and the **2013 Rummage Sale:**

Wed / Thursday, June 12/13 @ 9:30AM-6PM
Friday June 14 @ 9:30-11:30AM

Drop Off donations after weekend masses on June 8/9, and again Mon, June 10 @ 9AM-6PM. Your opportunity to give back through **volunteering your time** begins Saturday, June 8th. We look forward to hearing from you this spring when our Sign-Up Form will appear on the Parish website.



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

2150 Frieze Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4799

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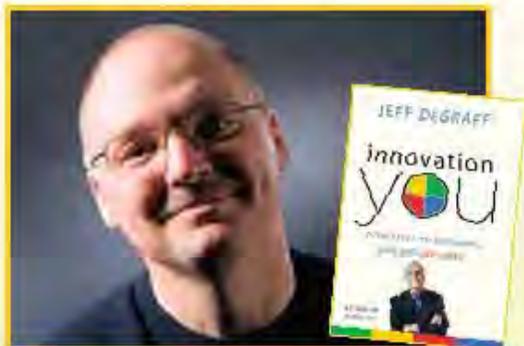
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For further information, or to register, visit www.stfrancisa2.com/bbf or contact Tom Buiteweg at 734-649-2655 or buiteweg@comcast.net. Open to the public. \$10 donation for breakfast requested

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